

Radio Interview with Dr. Greaves

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ONCE THE TALIBAN ARE REMOVED FROM AFGHANISTAN, THE TASK OF REBUILDING THAT COUNTRY WILL BE ENORMOUS, SAYS ROSE GREAVES, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS.

IN ADDITION TO HER K-U TEACHING, GREAVES TAUGHT MIDDLE EASTERN HISTORY AT FORT LEAVENWORTH'S U.S. ARMY COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE. SHE'S BEEN TO CENTRAL ASIA NUMEROUS TIMES, MOST RECENTLY IN 1999.

GREAVES SAYS A RELIEF EFFORT OF FOOD AND SHELTER IS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY FOR THE AFGHANS WHO HAVE REMAINED IN THE COUNTRY AS WELL AS THOSE WHO HAVE FLED TO NEIGHBORING PAKISTAN.

Greaves: "What we cannot do is let them starve to death. There's got to be a big aid effort made -- and before too long. Otherwise we're going to have a disaster on our hands that is almost unprecedented." (15 sec.)

THE SOVIET UNION LEFT A LARGE NUMBER OF LAND MINES IN AFGHANISTAN AFTER LEAVING THE COUNTRY IN 1989, AS MANY AS FIVE TO SEVEN MILLION, ACCORDING TO SOME UNITED NATIONS ESTIMATES. AS PART OF A REBUILDING EFFORT IN AFGHANISTAN, GREAVES SAYS, THE UNITED STATES SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN REMOVING THOSE MINES.

Greaves: "And so you've got nothing to go back to, you get blown up when you go out to plow. So that would be one of the first things we'd have to do is to see to it, through the United Nations, that the fields got cleared so that the farmers could get out of those Pakistani camps." (17 sec.)

TO BUILD A STABLE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT AFTER THE TALIBAN ARE REMOVED, GREAVES SAYS, THE THREE GROUPS THAT COMPRISE THE NORTHERN ALLIANCE -- THE UZBEKS, TAJIKS AND HAZARS -- MUST BE INCLUDED, THOUGH SHE SAYS THEY DON'T ALL GET ALONG. ANOTHER AFGHAN GROUP, THE PASHTUNS, SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN A POST-TALIBAN GOVERNMENT, THOUGH MANY FLED TO PAKISTAN DURING THE SOVIET INVASION IN THE 1980S AND STILL SUPPORT THE TALIBAN.

Greaves: "Unless you understand the tribes, you'll never understand Afghanistan. But you cannot have a government in Afghanistan that's going to work if you don't have the Pashtuns in it. So what we'll have to do is try to get a coalition together somehow, and I don't know that the United States will take part in this. Certainly we won't take a major part." (22 sec.)

GREAVES BELIEVES THAT NEWS REPORTS OVERSTATE THE ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT AMONG MUSLIMS IN CENTRAL ASIA.

Greaves: "The demonstrations we've seen have been much less vicious than what I had expected. I don't think that Islamic fundamentalism, even though it grew so much in the 20 years I saw Pakistan, I don't think it's as strong as we get the impression from the television." (21 sec.)

GREAVES CALLS BIN LADEN AN OPPORTUNIST WITH NO POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS AGENDA OTHER THAN TO DESTROY U.S. AND WESTERN INTERESTS. SHE SAYS THAT MORE EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON EXPOSING OSAMA BIN LADEN'S DISTORTION OF MUSLIM LAW.

Greaves: "He's not a religious scholar. But it hasn't been spelled out anywhere, loud and clear, that this is a monstrous deviation from what Islam stands for. Then I think we have a much better base of counteracting him intellectually." (16 sec.)

THE UNITED STATES MILITARY CONTINUES TO HUNT FOR OSAMA BIN LADEN. GREAVES QUESTIONS WHETHER HE'S HIDING IN CAVES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. SHE BELIEVES BIN LADEN CAN BE FOUND IN OR AROUND THE CITY OF KANDAHAR IN SOUTHERN AFGHANISTAN.

Greaves: "He did a lot of construction in Kandahar, and that was the main place where reconstruction was done after the Russians left, and I'd almost think maybe he has a good bunker somewhere around Kandahar." (14 sec.)